

## Readings & Gospel Reading for Sunday 7th December 2025

### First Reading

### Isaiah 11.1-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, chapter 11, beginning at verse 1. Let us listen for the word of the Lord:

11A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;

4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together;

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's  
den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal  
to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of  
him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

For the word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## Second Reading

### Romans 15.4-13

A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans, chapter 15, beginning at verse 4. Let us listen for the word of the Lord:

4For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. 5May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, 6so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Gospel for Jews and Gentiles Alike

7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. 8For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, 9and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

‘Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name’;

10and again he says,

‘Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people’;

11and again, ‘Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him’;

12and again Isaiah says,

‘The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;  
in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in  
believing, so that you may abound in hope by  
the power of the Holy Spirit.

For the word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Reading

### Matthew 3.1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.’ 3This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, ‘The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.” ’

4Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. 5Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, 6and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8Bear fruit worthy of repentance. 9Do not presume to say to yourselves, “We have Abraham as our ancestor”; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

10Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, O Christ.